Serial No. 10/799,911   Atty Dkt No. 706713US1

REMARKS:

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments in the Office Action and have prepared the following response.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been cancelled.

Claims 4, 5 and 9-11 have been amended.

Claims 4, 5 and 9-11 remain pending in this application.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all base and intervening claims. By this paper, Applicants have rewritten claims 4 and 9 into independent form including any base and intervening claims. In addition, Applicants note that claim 5 has been amended to depend directly from amended allowable independent claim 4 and claims 10 and 11 have been amended to depend directly from amended allowable independent claim 9.

As a result, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance.

While Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims from this application, the cancellation of these claims is not to be construed as an acquiescence to the Examiner's position regarding the asserted references or the rejected claims. Applicants have cancelled the rejected claims merely to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, and hereby preserve the right to again pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art and the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request an early notice of allowance. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would help advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
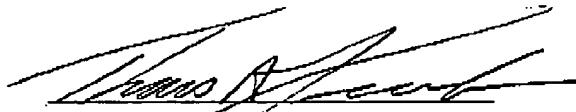
Thomas A. Jurecko
Reg. No. 48,392

Dated: 26 SEPT 2005

DAIMLERCHRYSLER INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL COMPANY, LLC
DAIMLERCHRYSLER TECHNOLOGY CENTER
800 CHRYSLER DRIVE EAST, CIMS 483-02-19
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-2757
248.944.6525

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